Executive Summary of Board meeting of the COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS
GotoMeeting – April 16th & 17th of 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Gryniuk, Mr. Sittig, Dr. Conn, Dr. Orr, Mr. A. Smith,

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Holleran, Mr. Ruff, Ms. Rush, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Montgomery, Dr. Guyette, Dr. Stuhlmiller, Mr. Brisbois, Dr. Brunko, Ms. Treadwell, Dr. Cohen, Ms. Corbett, Dr. Miller

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Frazer, Ms. Eichel, Mr. D. Smith,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Lewis, Mr. Goff, Dr. Becker,

GUESTS: None

Call to Order ........................................................................................................................................ Dr. Conn
Meeting called to order at 0904hrs (EDT) on April 16, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES ..................................................................................................................Dr. Conn
Board meeting minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved by the board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’REPORTS..................................................Ms. Frazer/Mr. D. Smith/Ms. Jan Eichel
Ms. Frazer discussed the challenges associated dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic. A blog post by CAMTS was misinterpreted and we posted a clarification. Ms. Frazer stated that several programs have requested delays due to the pandemic. Two of our surveyors completed a survey at the beginning of the outbreak (with social distancing precautions) in a very volatile virus area. Those surveyors self-quarantined after returning home and remained illness free.

Ms. Frazer discussed our July meeting and suggested we may need to push the meeting out further and meet by GotoMeeting. Ms. Frazer stated that we have migrated to an entirely online process and we will need to review policies related to this during this meeting. Ms. Frazer suggested we may want to consider changing to more web-based meetings in the future and reduce our number of in-person meetings, which are expensive and time consuming with air travel for most. There is also the uncertainty of when air travel will return to a full schedule. The board debated the merits of in-person versus web-based meetings but there was no final decision.

Ms. Frazer and Mr. Smith discussed their attendance at Heli-Expo in January. They stated that some participants cancelled due to the early onset of the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Smith stated that the Kobe Bryant helicopter crash occurred at the beginning of the conference. Mr. Smith reviewed the content of several of the presentations that he attended.

Mr. D. Smith discussed some of his research on Community Medicine and its current origin in
Community Paramedicine. He discussed the wide variety of scope of care in this healthcare area which encompasses anything from child car seat education to in-home dialysis. Mr. Smith discussed his work in drafting standards around Community Medicine. Mr. Smith is seeking some subject matter experts to serve on a committee to assist in reviewing and modifying the draft standards.

Ms. Eichel discussed her Quality Management activities. She reminded the board members to complete their Survey Monkey evaluations for this meeting. She also provided a summary of evaluations received following recent site visits. The Summary will be posted on the website.

Ms. Frazer said that this year will be CAMTS’ 30th Anniversary. She discussed some options for recognizing the anniversary at AMTC in Nashville. Board members with ideas as to how we might recognize this milestone should contact Ms. Frazer.

Ms. Frazer and Ms. Palmer discussed the concerns that have been expressed by operators in maintaining and obtaining liability insurance. Several Underwriters are no longer insuring helicopter operations. Ms. Palmer is hosting her annual Underwriter conference via web conference. The board discussed the need to possibly relax our enforcement of the standards regarding required liability insurance coverage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policies..........................................................................................................................................................Ms. Frazer

Policy # 03.01.00 A – Eligibility Requirements, Policy # 03.10.00 Background checks

The Board discussed removing the minimums for hull and liability and background checks as eligibility requirements since the insurance market is hardening and most helicopter operators are seeing annual premium increases of at least 40%. The limits of liability will remain the same in the accreditation standards.

Policy 03.01.00 – Applying for Accreditation

Changes were made to this policy to reflect the new on-line application process that all will be using instead of sending the PIF on a jump drive to the CAMTS office.

Policy 03.02.01 – Board Reports

Board Reports were traditionally provided to the full board with a list of concerns and deficiencies. However, the terminology has been changed and will be reflected under the general heading of “Findings” in the letters of accreditation. There were too many inconsistencies in the concerns and deficiencies terminology depending on the Board reviewer. The Board decided to define “Findings” in just two categories as follows:
**Areas of Strength** - areas that exceed the intent of the standard or as an innovative practice.

**Areas of Weakness** – Findings that partially meet compliance with the standards, do not meet the intent of the standard, or do not meet compliance with the standard.

All policy changes were approved and posted on the website with changes highlighted and dated.

**Education Committee**

Dr. Holleran stated there are no current updates from the Education Committee. The committee will be setting a date for their next meeting.

**Aviation and Safety Advisory Committee**

Mr. Brisbois stated there were no updates from the Aviation Advisory Committee. Mr. D. Smith stated there were items that needed to be reviewed by the committee and he would forward them to Mr. Brisbois.

**Accreditation Standards Committee**

Mr. D. Smith stated the draft for the next edition (12th) of the standards is posted on the website for comment. He stated very few comments have been received. The Standards Committee will meet next in May by video conferencing.

Mr. D. Smith discussed Project ECHO which is being held by the Department of Health and Human Services. He stated they are doing telehealth webinars on a weekly basis regarding critical care, emergency care, and EMS topics.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS**

Dr. Conn, current Chair, previously announced that the ACS-COT will pursue replacing him as their representative on the CAMTS Board. He will remain the ACS representative until they find a replacement, but he felt that with the election of officers this year (held every two years) – he should resign as Chair. There are no terms of limitation for Officers. Secretary, Steve Sittig agreed to stay in that position. Jonathan Gryniuk agreed to stay in the Recoding Secretary position and Ashley Smith agreed to stay on as Treasurer.

Congratulations were extended to Dick Orr, MD who was elected to the Chair position. Dick has been Vice-Chair since 2000 and has represented the American Academy of Pediatrics since 1991. Dr. Frank Guyette was elected Vice-Chair, representing the American College of Emergency Physicians since 2017.
Ms. Frazer discussed potential board member representative changes for both AsMA and U.S. TRANSCOM.

**ACCREDITATION DELIBERATIONS**

Dr. Orr reviewed our Mission Statement, Vision and Values, as well as the rules of conduct for program deliberations. There were 10 Full Accreditations, 1 Provisional Action and 1 Deferred Action. Congratulations to the following Programs!

**New Accreditation:**

SkyHealth – Ronkonkoma, NY..........................................................RW

**Reaccreditations**

AirLife Denver – Denver, CO.........................................................RW/FW/S
Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital – Chicago, IL........................RW/FW/S
Critical Care Transport - Birmingham, AL........................................FW/S
Dell Children’s Pediatric Critical Care – Austin, TX............................RW/FW/S
Flight for Life Colorado – Lakeland, CO...........................................RW/FW/S
JeffSTAT – Philadelphia, PA............................................................RW/S
Med Evac – Greeley, CO.................................................................RW
PHI Air Medical CA/NM – Modesto, CA...........................................RW/FW
University of Iowa AirCare – Iowa City, IA......................................RW/FW/S

Meeting adjourned. Next face-to-face meeting is tentatively planned for October 29, 30, 31 in Nashville prior to AMTC.